

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Saturday, July 2. 1709.

I Am come now to the Point in hand, as to *People*, the first Subject of general Commerce, and this is the present Enquiry, about the poor *Palatine* Refugees—that are now to the Number of ten Thousand or thereabouts, come over to us, to offer Themselves and their Posterity to an Incorporation of Families with us; and the great Question before us now is, What shall we do with them?

I'll tell you, **FIRST**, what I promis'd to tell you before, *Viz.* How you may settle these People among you, so as to make them an Improvement to your Land, a Consumption to your Wool, an Encrease to your People, and a Support to themselves—And yet so that at the same time

they shall not take one Days Work out of the Hands of our own People—So that the Notion of their taking the Bread out of the Mouths of the Poor, and robbing our own People of their Employ, shall of Necessity be of no more Use, but to blush at, and shall fall to the Ground, as an Absurdity we ought to be asham'd of.

But, **SECONDLY**, I must add to this Account, what I am sorry to mention, *viz.* The *True-Born-English* Reasons, why this easie, profitable, and hospitable Experiment will not take, but that these poor People will meet with here all the Discouragement and Repulse, that an ill-natur'd, Stranger-hating People can put upon them—Till the Government, at whose Expence they

they now subsist, and who would gladly serve them, and serve us by them, shall be forc'd to disperse them again to such Parts and Places as they can.

And, LASTLY, I'll give some Account what may, or rather what must be done with them — Upon the unhappy Circumstance above-mention'd, that the poor People, who are fled to us, may not perish upon our Hands, by the Miseries and Hardships of the approaching Winter, the un hospitable Temper of our People, or the Disaster of our depopulating Constitution.

I know, I shall be attack'd here with your wonderful Bounty and Charity, to relieve these People, and the mighty Things you will do for them in the approaching Collection — And I wish you may do something to boast of in that Affair — But it is not a Charity or Gift for their immediate Subsistence, that will answer the planting Families to live among you. Never call your selves charitable, kind to Strangers, and the like, while your Parochial Constitutions will not suffer them to sleep under a Roof in the Nation, your Lordship Tenures will not permit them to plant upon the Waste, nor your Laws of Commonage permit her Majesty to plant them, no not in her own Royalties and Forrests.

But I am not writing a Satyr — Tho' I complain of it as a Disaster to our Nation — I shall first however go on to tell you, how these People may be settled among us to our general Advantage, and theirs too; if you will not open your Arms to your own Blessings, *that I cannot help.*

My Proposal is in short thus —

That the *Palatine* Strangers may be planted in small Townships, like little Colonies, in the several Forrests and Wastes of *England*, where the Lands being rich and good, will upon their Application to Husbandry, and Cultivation of the Ground, soon not only subsist them, but encourage them.

I know, the Forrest Laws and the Right of the Common being annex'd to the several Mannors and Lands adjoining to the said Forrests, with the Privilege of Town-Poor, &c. will be objected in this Case — I shall first speak to the Manner of settling

these People; and after, to the Power the QUEEN may have to do it.

These little Colonies, I propose, should consist of about 50 or 100 Families each, as the Goodness of the Land, or the Extent of the Forrests or Wastes they are settled in, will admit, but none to contain above 100 Families, for several Reasons; particularly that the Language and Customs of the People, as Foreigners, may not be too long preserv'd, but that they may by Time, and mingling themselves with us, become the same People with our selves, as all other Nations we have entertain'd hitherto, have done.

When they are thus settled in small Colonies, the Families, who are settled upon Land, will in Time find Work for their own People amongst themselves.

To this Purpose, a due Proportion of the several Employments, to which these People have been bred up, must be made, and suitable Numbers of every Occupation be planted together, that they may live by labouring one for another; at least till they are acquainted with the Country, have learnt the Language, and become able to shift for themselves.

The Meaning is this, That the Farmers, or Husbandmen, and their Families, being thus settled, every Colony will necessarily require a certain Number of Artificers and Manufacturers to be with them, and who will always find Employment among themselves.

Thus they will be made a publick Good; for their Numbers will increase the Consumption of our Wool, their Improvement of our Land will increase the publick Wealth, and yet their Manufacturers and Artificers shall not rob our Poor of one Days Work, for they shall work only for themselves.

This, I conceive, is a clear Demonstration, how Numbers of People may be made our publick Blessing and Advantage, by so planting and so proportioning them as to Number, and as to their respective Employments, that they may be able to support one another, and neither lessen the Employment of our own Poor, or interfere with our Manufacturers.

MISCELLANEA.

AND now, Gentlemen, you begin to be reconcil'd to the Siege of *Tournay*, and the Consequences of it begin to appear— But give me Leave to tell you, that you cannot do this, but with the greatest Reproach upon your former Precipitations— And I hope, due Remarks on such Follies are not at all unprofitable to us; I am sure, they are for your Instruction.—And to caution you not to run upon every Enterprize, faster than the Armies can follow you.

Your Generals are Men of Experience, but they are but Men— Give them their Due, and give them no more than their Due— Upon fair Occasions they have let you see, they do not want Forwardness, Bravery in Action, or a Good-Will to Action. But if you will have Numbers of the Enemy, Strength of fortify'd Camps, Disadvantage of Situation, severe Rains, swelling the Rivers, and making the Access to your Enemies impracticable; if you will have all these Things be of no Value to them, but they must go on, and run a brave, willing, daring Soldierly upon Death and Impossibilities— You then do not deal with our Generals, as if they were Men; or with the Army, as if they were Soldiers.

Your Soldiers are as brave and as forward, as any Men in the World are or ever were— But you ought to treat them like Soldiers, like Men of Honour and Bravery, and that is not to run them upon Impossibilities and Desperations; a Soldier is not to fear Death when commanded on, but it is a General's Work not to command Men upon certain Destruction. There are better Ways of dislodging the *French*, than meer attacking them in the Teeth of 150 Pieces of Cannon mounted, and Intrenchments of 8 Foot high— Fronted with unpassable Morasses, flank'd with continu'd advanc'd Works, and mann'd with an Army as numerous as the Assailants— It would be unfoldierly to the highest Degree; it would not be like Prince *Eugene* or the

Duke of *Marlborough*, to sacrifice their faithful Troops at this Rate; and if it were attempted, and should miscarry, as in all Probability it must, you would be the first to reproach them with Rashness and Disregard to their Men.

The *French King* has been used indeed to run his Men upon Precipices, and sacrifice 6000 Men for a Bastion or a Counterscarp; we have blam'd him always for it— And he now finds the Want of the brave Troops, he has so treated. But it has been always counted the Wisdom of a General to spare his Troops, at least from desperate and improbable Attempts— And where there is no Necessity of such Hazards.

But which way then, say these Murmurers, shall we reduce *France*? This Besieging of Towns is a tedious Lengthning out the War; the King of *France* will give you two such Towns in a Year, and let you go on— It will be many Years before you end the War at this Rate— There are about 38 of these strong Towns in this Part of the *Spanish* Dominions, that stand as a Barrier to *France*, and most of these he would have given you before— If you cannot push him but by besieging Towns, we shall have a 10 Years War of it still. •

This admits of many Answers. But a short State of the Case will clear it to you; *France* is in this War as a strong Town besieged; if you fall to storming the Works Sword in Hand, you will never take the Town, nor do any thing but destroy your Men; but if you make regular Approaches, batter down the Defences, and take the Out-works, as soon as you come to make a Breach in the Body of the Place, it must surrender, or it will be taken by Storm, in which Case the Garrison can expect no Quarter, but will be all cut to pieces in the Breach.

I shall apply this more particularly in my next.